

**Preliminary Amendment****Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A high voltage surge protection device adapted for use in a CATV system that includes a coaxial cable having a central conductor, an outer conductor concentrically positioned in surrounding relation thereto, and a dielectric layer disposed between the central and outer conductors, said surge protection device comprising:

a.—a housing having an input end and a body portion that defines an internal cavity;

b.—an electronic component positioned entirely within said cavity; and

c.—an electrically conductive, surge protective element positioned between said input end and said electronic component, and in electrically operative communication with said body portion;

wherein said surge protective element is a ring and a portion of said ring is in physical and electrical contact with a shoulder formed within said body portion of said housing.

2. (currently amended) The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said ~~electrically conductive, surge protective protection element includes a body defining a central opening and positioned in electrically operative communication with said body portion of said housing, and at least one prong extending radially inwardly from said ringbody.~~

3. (currently amended) The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said ~~electrically conductive surge protective protection element is of a predetermined width that is about 0.020 inches.~~

4. (currently amended) The high voltage surge protection device of claim 1, wherein said electrical component includes a conductive pin extending ~~forward~~ ~~forwardly~~ therefrom and is ~~electrically connected adapted to be in electrical communication with the central conductor of the coaxial cable, and said ring is disposed such that said conductive pin is substantially centered within said ring.~~

5. (cancelled)

**Preliminary Amendment**

6. (currently amended) A method for providing an alternate path to ground of a high voltage surge carried by a coaxial cable in a CATV distribution system, prior to the surge passing through a coaxial cable connector having an input end, a body portion defining an internal cavity, an electrical component positioned within the cavity, and an input pin extending forward ~~forwardly~~ from the electrical component toward the input end and ~~adapted for electrical interconnection~~ electrically connected to the central conductor of the coaxial cable, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. positioning an electrically conductive ring-shaped surge protective element ~~protection device~~ entirely within said cavity and in ~~physically and~~ connected ~~operative~~ relation to said body portion of said connector ~~and in circumferentially surrounding~~ relation to said input pin; and
- b. maintaining an air gap of predetermined size between said surge protective element ~~protection device~~ and said input pin.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein ~~said surge protective element~~ protection device ~~includes a body that is positioned in~~ operative ~~relation to~~ body ~~portion of~~ said connector, and at least one prong extending radially inward ~~inwardly therefrom~~ from ~~said ring-shaped element~~ toward said input pin.

8-11. (cancelled)

12. (new) The high voltage surge protection device of claim 2, wherein said at least one prong is shaped substantially as a triangle.

13. (new) The high voltage surge protection device of claim 2, wherein said at least one prong is shaped substantially as a curved element.

14. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein said electrical component includes a conductive pin extending forward therefrom which is electrically connected to the central conductor of the coaxial cable, and said ring is disposed such that said conductive pin is substantially centered within said ring.